

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Gertrude McCurdy Hubbard, January 22, 1878, with transcript

L. 1878 Telephone G. ertrude M cCurdy H ubbard to MABEL Jan 22, Tues. Wash.
phonograph really the Telephone

We were all ready to make some calls this afternoon had a shower like a share came up & kept us at home. We have invitations for this week & have not decided whether we shall go on with

.....Papa is much pleased with Alec's approval of and interest in the phonograph. He has always said that it was the child of the telephone, but was rather surprised when the other evening Mr. Chauncey Smith told him that the relation was nearer than that, that it was the telephone itself in principle and that it was covered by Alec's invention. He is not sure that Alec's patent can be made to cover it, though he believes it does without doubt, but the invention is Alec's adapted by Edison to another instrument. Mr. Smith thinks Alec does not yet half understand or appreciate what he has discovered and invented, that he himself will be constantly surprised at the new forms which his idea will take and the new uses to which it will be put. Papa means to write to Alec by today's mail..... By the way, the indian delegates to Congress do not approve of Papa's plans for their civilization & call Papa the man of the skill eye. I do not exactly know what they mean, his certainly something with very complimentary